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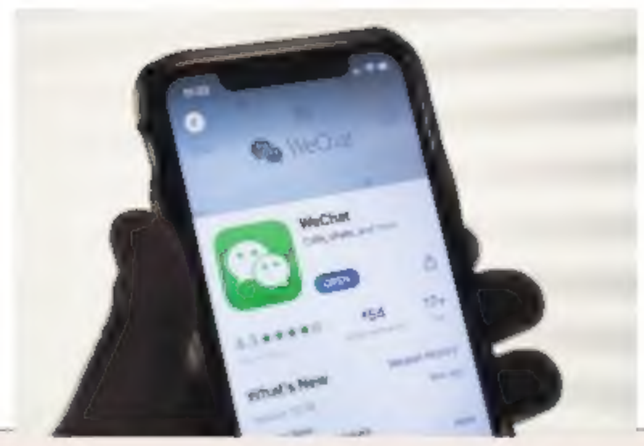

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U.S. TO BAN WECHAT, TIKTOK CITING NATIONAL SECURITY

The White House will ban the use of WeChat as well as the downloads of popular video-sharing app TikTok on Sunday

TIKTOK GETS TIME TILL NOVEMBER 12

From Sunday, both apps will be removed from app stores in the US. While the Tencent-owned WeChat faces an outright ban starting Sunday, TikTok owner ByteDance has been given time till November 12 to strike a deal with a US company. The deal must grant the US firm full control over the app's source code to prevent snooping by Chinese govt, the White House insists

BAN COVERS WECHAT PAYMENT SERVICES

- The order also requires WeChat to end its payment services in the US, likely affecting millions of private users as well as businesses
- "The Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated the means and motives to use these apps to threaten the US national security," US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement

19 million

DAILY ACTIVE USERS OF WECHAT IN THE UNITED STATES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIJAYAPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Time for Whistle Podu

The beautiful greens of Abu Dhabi cricket stadium is ready to welcome their favourite stars, so are the millions back home. The most watched sporting spectacle of India will begin with CSK taking on Mumbai Indians today

THE NEW NORMAL

- Players and support staff may sit in the stands to maintain distancing
- Electronic team sheets instead of physical ones. No handshakes during toss
- After-match formalities will be without touch to maintain distance
- Don't be surprised if you see players fetch balls hit for a six. Recovered ball will be sanitised
- Saliva can't be used to shine the ball; players will have own water bottles
- Umpires won't collect players' caps, towels and goggles

THE RIVALRY

The two of the most successful franchises in the IPL history – Mumbai have won the title four times and Chennai thrice – have fought close encounters numerous times in the past 12 editions | P15

Fan walls across venues

Fans can virtually be present in the stadium as BCCI has set up 4 fan walls. Ninety-six fans can watch it virtually with volume turned down. Virtual tickets are available on bookmyshow.com

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1/HOTSTAR 7.30PM

Plan to let pvt hosps offer standalone PG courses

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

IN what could open the door to a major shift in the way specialist doctors are trained in India, the country's top medical education regulator is considering allowing private hospitals to offer standalone postgraduate degrees without having the prerequisite of an MBBS programme.

At present, only medical colleges that have been offering the MBBS programme for at least three years are allowed to offer PG (MD and MS) courses, once they fulfill the specified criteria.

The Medical Council of India's (MCI) Board of Governors has recently constituted a five-member committee, under AIIMS, Delhi Director Dr Randeep Guleria to examine the proposal and finalise its modalities. P10

CM meets Nadda on cab expansion

Hours after he met PM Narendra Modi, CM B S Yediyurappa met BJP National President J P Nadda on Friday to discuss cabinet expansion. However, he could not meet Home Minister Amit Shah, who is recuperating after his discharge from AIIMS.

JDS not joining BJP govt: Yediyurappa

The Chief Minister on Friday dismissed speculation that the JDS was joining the government or extending any support, brushing aside reports that emerged after a meeting between him and former CM H D Kumaraswamy recently.

Central aid tops agenda as BSY meets Modi

Seeks clearance for key projects, invites PM to open tech summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has a word with Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar during their meeting in New Delhi on Friday | EXPRESS

AFTER months of postponement, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa finally met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday. With Covid-19 restrictions in place, only State Chief Secretary T M Vijaya Bhaskar was allowed to accompany Yediyurappa during his meeting with the PM in Parliament House.

While flood relief assistance, clearance for irrigation and drinking water projects were key discussions in the meeting, Yediyurappa is also said to have sought the PM's nod for expanding his cabinet. Further discussions were held with BJP national president J P Nadda later on Friday.

"The CM appealed to the Prime Minister to expedite the release of funds from the National Disaster Response Fund. He made a plea to revise the items and norms of assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund or National Disaster Response Fund for the current year itself to ensure timely and adequate financial assistance to the distressed people. He also urged the PM to declare Upper Krishna Project Stage-III and Upper Bhadra Project as national projects," said a statement from the CM's Office.

The CM is also said to have requested Modi to take necessary action for early approvals and clearances for irrigation and drinking water projects, including Mekedatu and Kalasa-Banduri Nala, to utilise the water resources allocated to the state. At the end of the meeting, the CM invited Modi to virtually inaugurate the Bengaluru Tech Summit on November 19. P3,7

Army indicts its own in Shopian encounter case

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Army on Friday admitted there was prima facie evidence of overreach under the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) by its troops in an alleged fake encounter in south Kashmir's Shopian district two months ago that left three persons dead. Those involved in the July 18 operation at Amshipora village of Shopian will soon face disciplinary action under the Army Act.

While the slain persons were labelled as unidentified militants at that time, their families had challenged the spin, saying they were actually innocent labourers hailing from Rajouri.

Defence spokesman in Srinagar, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, said a high-level Court of Inquiry ordered into the encounter also found that the troops had violated the guidelines issued by the Army chief and the Supreme Court on handling encounters.

On July 18, the Army and the police claimed to have killed three unidentified militants in a joint operation at Amshipora. The police had said the operation was launched on specific intelligence input shared by the Army's 62 Rashtriya Rifles, adding arms and ammunition and other incriminating material were recovered from the site of encounter. The bodies were buried at a graveyard in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. P9

EXPRESS READ

Paytm app back on Google Play store

New Delhi: US tech giant Google on Friday restored the Paytm app on its Play store after removing it for violating its policy on sports betting activities. The app was back after it removed the 'cashback' feature from a recently-launched game. P13

Schools to open, but no classes yet: Govt

Mysuru: Schools in Karnataka will open from September 21, but regular classes will not resume for now, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said on Friday. The state is awaiting the Centre's approval to begin classes. P2